(a) the names of district headquarters in Maharashtra where speed post service is not yet available with reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which all district headquarters are proposed to be covered under this network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Speed Post Service under the national network is available in the following four districts of Maharashtra; 1. Bombay 2. Pune 3. Nagpur and 4. Nasik. Point to point Speed Post Service from Bombay is available for 17 district headquarters. Speed Post is not available in the remaining 9 (nine) districts given below:

1. Bhandara 2. Buldana 3. Chandrapur 4. Gadchiroli 5. Bhir (Beed) 6. Jalna 7. Parbhani 8. Ratnagiri 9. Sindudurg.

In the above noted districts, there is no appreciable demand for the Service. Introduction of Speed Post service is an ongoing process depending on demand, potential viability and operational feasibility.

Pending Applications of Freedom Fighters

1598. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:
SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of applications for freedom fighters pension pending as on 31st March, 1995;

(b) since when, these are pending; and

(c) by when these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) All applications received upto 31-3-1995 have been examined and decisions already communicated to the applicants at least once. However, aggrieved with the decisions applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations. Examination and disposal of such review petitions/ representations is a continuous process and no definite time schedule can be prescribed for their disposal.

Amnesty International report on violation of Human Rights in India

1599. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released Annual Report of Amnesty International, charging Government and Indian security forces of large scale violation of Human Rights, in detention of thousands of persons without trial for long spells and perpetrating atrocities on under-trials and others in custody;

(b) if so, what are the precise facts and figures, including comparative figures for preceding years in respect of such violations of Human Rights, as brought out in this report; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) In its Annual Report, Amnesty International has once again made sweeping and generalised allegations of the Human Rights situation in India. It has alleged that thousands of political prisoners were held without charge or trial, that torture and ill-treatment of detainees was routine, resulting in hundreds of deaths in police and military custody. It also alleges that scores of political detainees disappeared and that hundreds of people were reported to have been extra judiciously executed by the security forces. No figures of cases of alleged Human Rights violation of different kinds are given in such reports. It has been our complaint against the Amnesty International that their generalised allegations are based on inadequate facts and questionable sources.

New Postal Divisions in Gujarat

1600. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any proposal for setting up of new Postal Divisions in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Postal Divisions set up in the State during 1994-95; and

(c) whether any new Postal Divisional are proposed to be set up in SaurashtraKutchh area of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Postal Division was set up in Gujarat state during 1994-95.

(c) No, Sir.

Setting up of Sal Seeds Extraction Plants in Orissa

1601. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sal seeds extraction plants have been set up in Mayurbhanj district in Orissa;

(b) whether some of those owners of the sal seeds extraction plants are responsible for the destruction of forests and exploiting local tribals; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to regulate the working of sal seed extraction plant owners and also to save the valuable forest wealth from destruction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the report received from State Government of Orissa, there is one Solvent Extraction Plant in Mayurbhanj District in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Delhi Ahmedabad rail line

1602. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY
DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Delhi Ahmedabad Super Fast train converted into BG Railway would commence for journey;

(b) the details of completed conversion of MG into BG on Delhi Ahmedabad line; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Delhi Ahmedabad Superfast train would be suspended in the next year to facilitate conversion of MG into BG?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The route from Delhi to Ahmedabad is expected to be ready after conversion by Aug. '96. Train services will be introduced thereafter.

(b) Delhi-Ajmer and MehsanaAhmedabad sections have been completed. Mehsana-Palanpur is targeted for completion by March '96 and the remaining sections by Aug. '96.

(c) the existing MG train will continue to run on diverted route via Chhitaurgarh and Himmatnagar till the conversion is completed.

News Item Regarding Atrocities against Women

1603. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a report published in the Pioneer of 19th July, 1995 under the caption, crimes against women;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there has been a rise in the cases of crimes against women as mentioned in the above report; if so, what are the details in this regard and the nature of cases which took place during the years 1993, 1994 and so far in 1995 (State-wise and particularly in Delhi); and what action Government have taken on each case; and

(d) what action Government have so far taken or propose to take on the Resolution relating to atrocities against women unanimously adopted by the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1995 and what are the details in this regard and how the matter stands at present?